

2001: A SPACE
ODYSSEY

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BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY TO THE STARS-AND BEYOND!!

BASED ON
CONCEPTS FROM THE
MGM/STANLEY KUBRICK
PRODUCTION

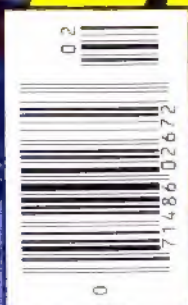


2001!

A SPACE ODYSSEY

HE TOOK THE
ROAD TO
CONQUEST-
AND FOUND
THE STARS!

"MARAK
the MERCILESS!"



STAN LEE PRESENTS:

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™

BASED ON CONCEPTS OF THE MGM MOVIE BY STANLEY KUBRICK AND ARTHUR C. CLARKE

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** INKED BY **MIKE ROYER**

ONE MAN'S JOURNEY TO THE STARS CAN BE A LONG TIME IN PREPARATION. BEFORE THERE WERE CITIES TO SACK AND TOWNS TO BURN--THERE WAS

MARK!

BREACH THE WALL!

KILL THE ENEMY!!

THIS IS THE MONOLITH!! IT IS THERE WHEN THE STARS COME TO MAN. IT IS THERE WHEN MAN REACHES OUT FOR THE UNIVERSE...

WE FOLLOW WHERE MARK LEADS!!

LETTERED BY
MIKE ROYER
COLORED BY
GEORGE ROUSSOS
CONSULTING
EDITOR
ARCHIE GOODWIN

IT WILL BE 200,000 YEARS BEFORE WHITE COLUMNS AND GREAT STRUCTURES RISE IN ATHENS, GREECE--BUT SOMETHING LIKE ORGANIZED WARFARE IS ALREADY BEING PRACTICED BY A MAN NAMED MARAK!! HE HAS LEARNED THAT MEN CAN BE MANEUVERED BY PRE-ARRANGED PLANNING TO WIPE OUT PRIMITIVE FARMING COMMUNITIES AND TAKE THE PRODUCTS OF THEIR LABOR BY FORCE!!!

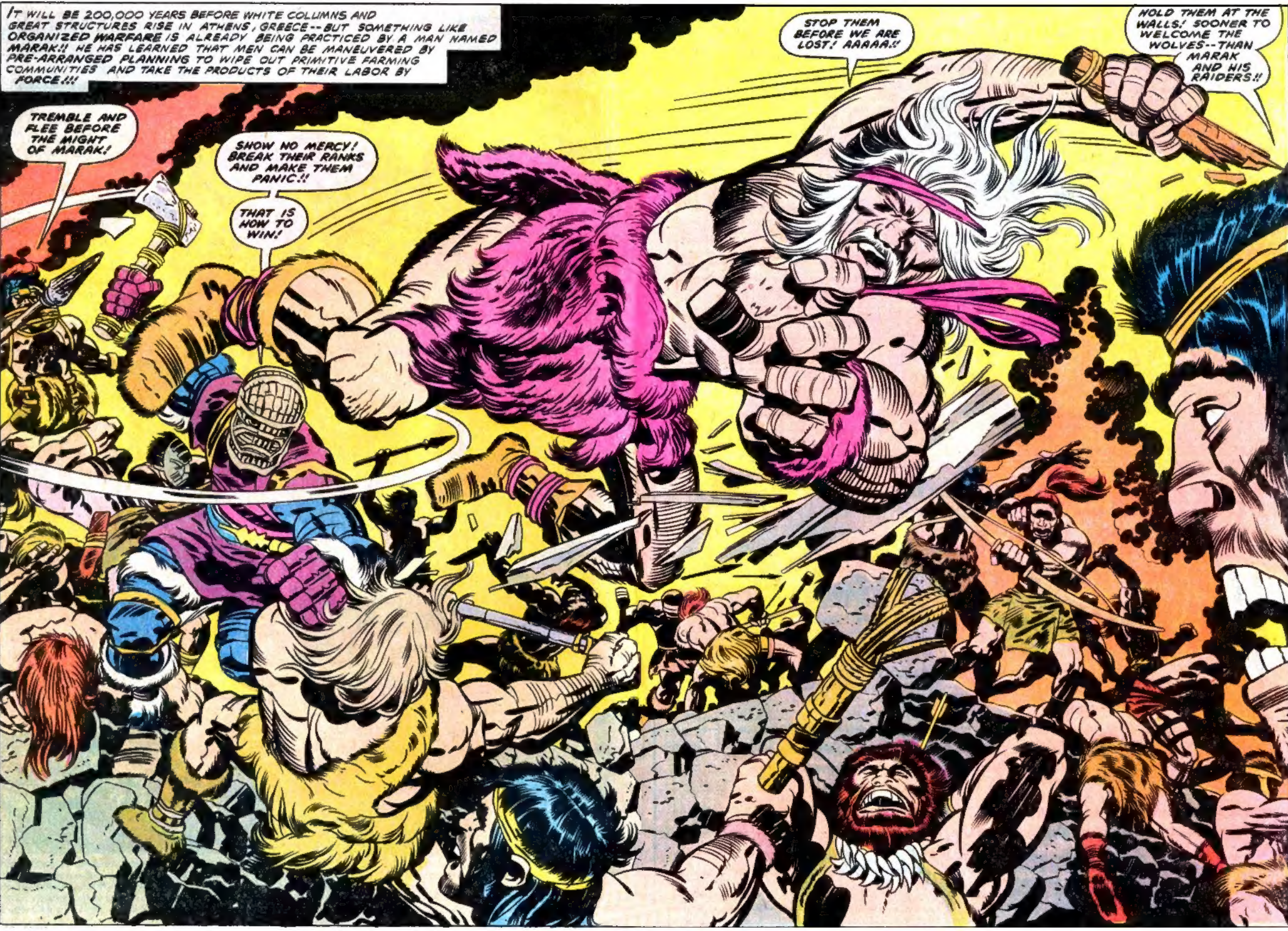
TREMBLE AND FLEE BEFORE THE MIGHT OF MARAK!

SHOW NO MERCY! BREAK THEIR RANKS AND MAKE THEM PANIC!!

THAT IS HOW TO WIN!

STOP THEM BEFORE WE ARE LOST! AAAAA!!

HOLD THEM AT THE WALLS! SOONER TO WELCOME THE WOLVES--THAN MARAK AND HIS RAIDERS!!



MARAK WILL NOT BE CHRONICLED IN THE HISTORY BOOKS THAT WE READ--BUT, FOR THE AGE HE LIVES IN, HE IS A TRUE MILITARY GENIUS WHOSE MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO BROADEN THE DOMINION OF HIS TRIBE...

SLAY THEM!

A DEAD ENEMY CANNOT STRIKE BACK!

THE ENEMY BREAKS! HE RUNS! THIS PLACE IS OURS!!

NOT YET! LOOK INTO THE HUTS! FIND THOSE WHO HIDE!!

WE OBEY!

MAKING DECISIONS AND GIVING ORDERS IS A RELATIVELY NEW ART FOR MEN. HOWEVER, THE TIMES ARE CHANGING--AND DESTINY IS CREATING THE BLUEPRINT FOR FUTURE ALEXANDERS AND NAPOLEONS...

NOW, TAKE WHAT WE'VE WON!!

TAKE WHAT IS NO LONGER THEIRS!

SUDDENLY, MARAK'S AXE DISINTEGRATES IN HIS HANDS!!



IN THAT ONE MOMENT, THE BATTLE IS FORGOTTEN, AS MARAK STARES IN DISMAY AT WHAT REMAINS OF HIS WEAPON!



GO BACK! LEAVE THIS PLACE IN PEACE!!

MARAK FACES THE ONE WHO HAS DISARMED HIM WITH SUCH EASE! HE HOLDS A CLUB WHICH LOOKS LIKE SMOOTH STONE AND GLISTENS IN THE SUN!!



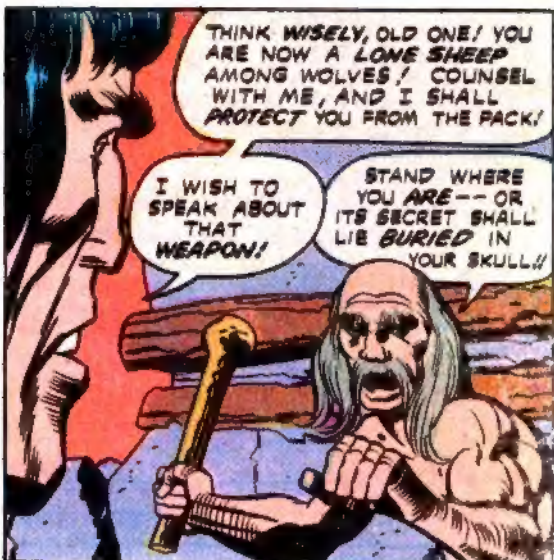
**GO, AND I SHALL SPARE YOU!!
STAY--AND YOU DIE!!**

WITH A CAUTIOUS EYE ON HIS ENEMY, MARAK ATTEMPTS TO USE A ROCK, BUT...



WHAM!!

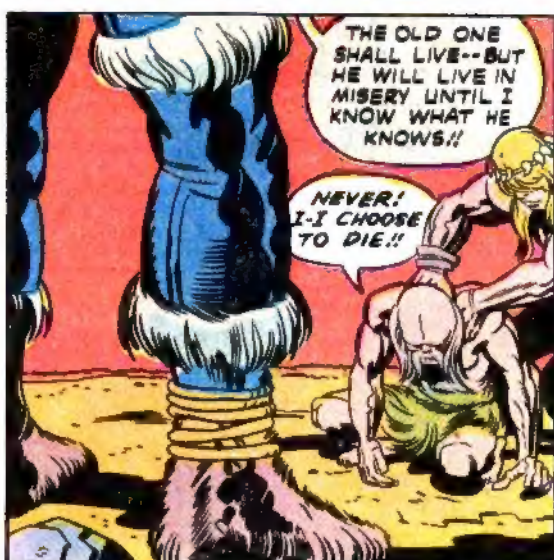
THE ENEMY'S WEAPON SHATTERS THE ROCK AND MARAK'S PEACE OF MIND! HE REMOVES HIS HELMET OF STOUT BARK. IT IS THE UNIVERSAL GESTURE OF TRUCE...



THINK WISELY, OLD ONE! YOU ARE NOW A LONE SHEEP AMONG WOLVES! COUNSEL WITH ME, AND I SHALL PROTECT YOU FROM THE PACK!

I WISH TO SPEAK ABOUT THAT WEAPON!

STAND WHERE YOU ARE--OR ITS SECRET SHALL LIE BURIED IN YOUR SKULL!!





THIS ONE IS RARE
AND STRANGE!!

COME! BE ONE OF
US! I SHALL BE YOUR
LEADER! I SHALL
PROTECT YOU WITH
WEAPONS-- MADE LIKE
THIS!

YOU LIE!
YOU KILL!



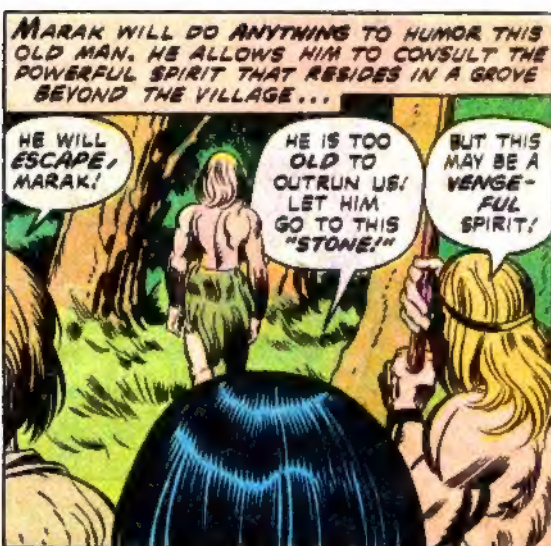
THE OLD ONE LOOKS DEEPLY INTO MARAK'S
EYES. HE SUDDENLY REALIZES THAT THIS
FOE IS NO MERE BESTIAL MARAUDER.
THERE IS AN ACTIVE BRAIN AT WORK IN
THAT RUGGED SKULL.



THIS WAS A BAD
WAY TO MEET,
OLD ONE-- BUT
MET WE HAVE!

YOU AND I CAN
HELP EACH OTHER
DO THINGS OF
WONDER!

ONLY THE "STONE THAT
TALKS" WOULD KNOW THAT!
THE STONE ITSELF CAN
DECIDE WHAT THIS MEANS!!

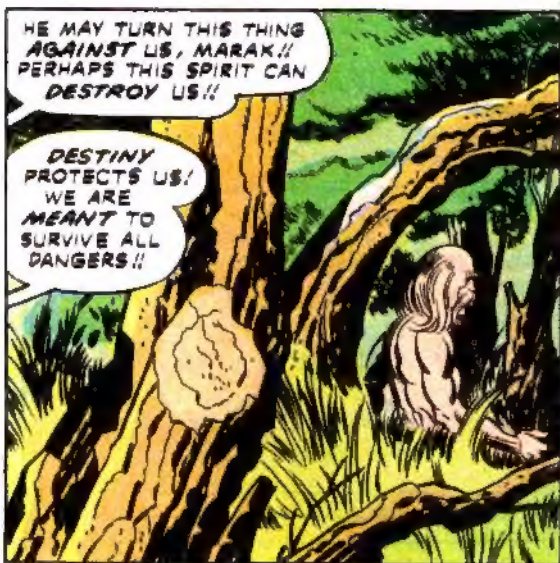


MARAK WILL DO ANYTHING TO HUMOR THIS
OLD MAN. HE ALLOWS HIM TO CONSULT THE
POWERFUL SPIRIT THAT RESIDES IN A GROVE
BEYOND THE VILLAGE...

HE WILL
ESCAPE,
MARAK!

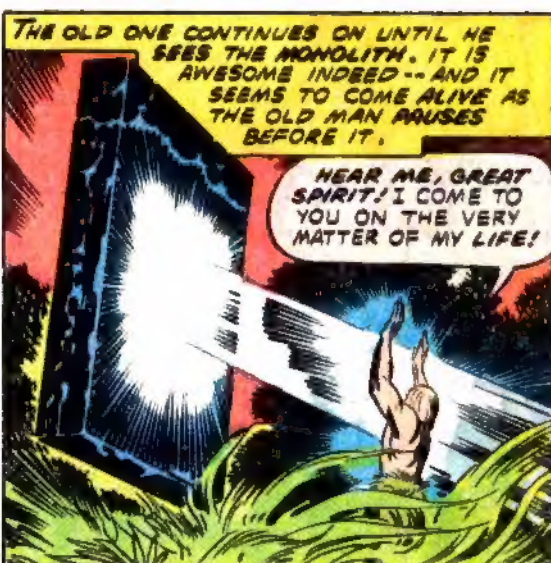
HE IS TOO
OLD TO
OUTRUN US!
LET HIM
GO TO THIS
"STONE!"

BUT THIS MAY BE A
VENGE-
FUL
SPIRIT!



HE MAY TURN THIS THING
AGAINST US, MARAK!!
PERHAPS THIS SPIRIT CAN
DESTROY US!!

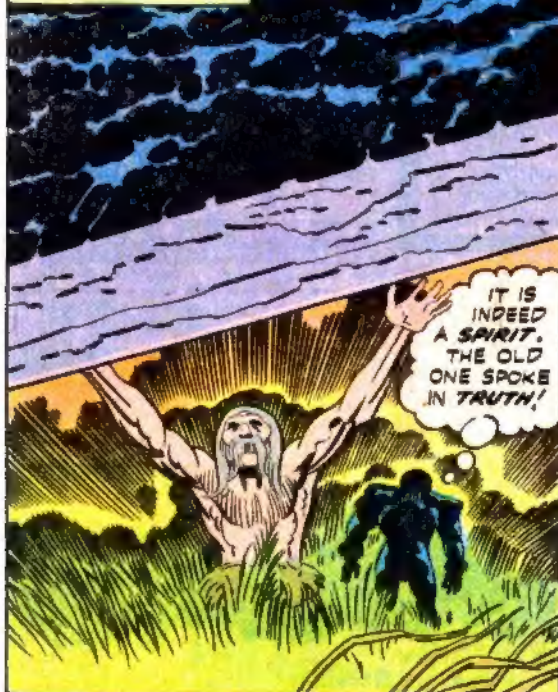
DESTINY
PROTECTS US!
WE ARE
MEANT TO
SURVIVE ALL
DANGERS!!



THE OLD ONE CONTINUES ON UNTIL HE
SEES THE MONOLITH. IT IS
AWESOME INDEED-- AND IT
SEEMS TO COME ALIVE AS
THE OLD MAN AWADES
BEFORE IT.

HEAR ME, GREAT
SPIRIT! I COME TO
YOU ON THE VERY
MATTER OF MY LIFE!

FROM THE MONOLITH EMANATES A SOUND STRANGE TO ALL EARTHLY CREATURES. IT IS A SOUND HEARD AMONG THE STARS... YET IT REACHES OUT TO THIS OLD MAN -- AND ENGULFS HIM!



IT IS INDEED A SPIRIT. THE OLD ONE SPOKE IN TRUTH!

MARAK HAS FOLLOWED AND JOINS THE CONFRONTATION WITH THIS ALIEN PRESENCE. HE IS FILLED WITH SURPRISE AND CONFUSION... BUT NOT WITH FEAR!



YOU--!

SOMEHOW, HIS DOGGED SENSE OF DESTINY HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY THE SIGHT OF THIS MASSIVE STONE THAT HANGS ABOVE GROUND WITHOUT SUPPORT. MARAK TOUCHES IT AND FEELS A STRONG SURGE OF KINSHIP IN THE CONTACT...



THIS SPIRIT RECEIVES US BOTH, OLD ONE. IT IS AN OMEN!

THOSE OF MARAK'S RAIDERS WHO WITNESS THE SCENE FROM A RESPECTFUL DISTANCE ARE CAUGHT UP IN THE MYSTIC PROCEEDINGS. THEY PROBE THEIR OWN THOUGHTS AND HEARTS FOR ITS MEANING...

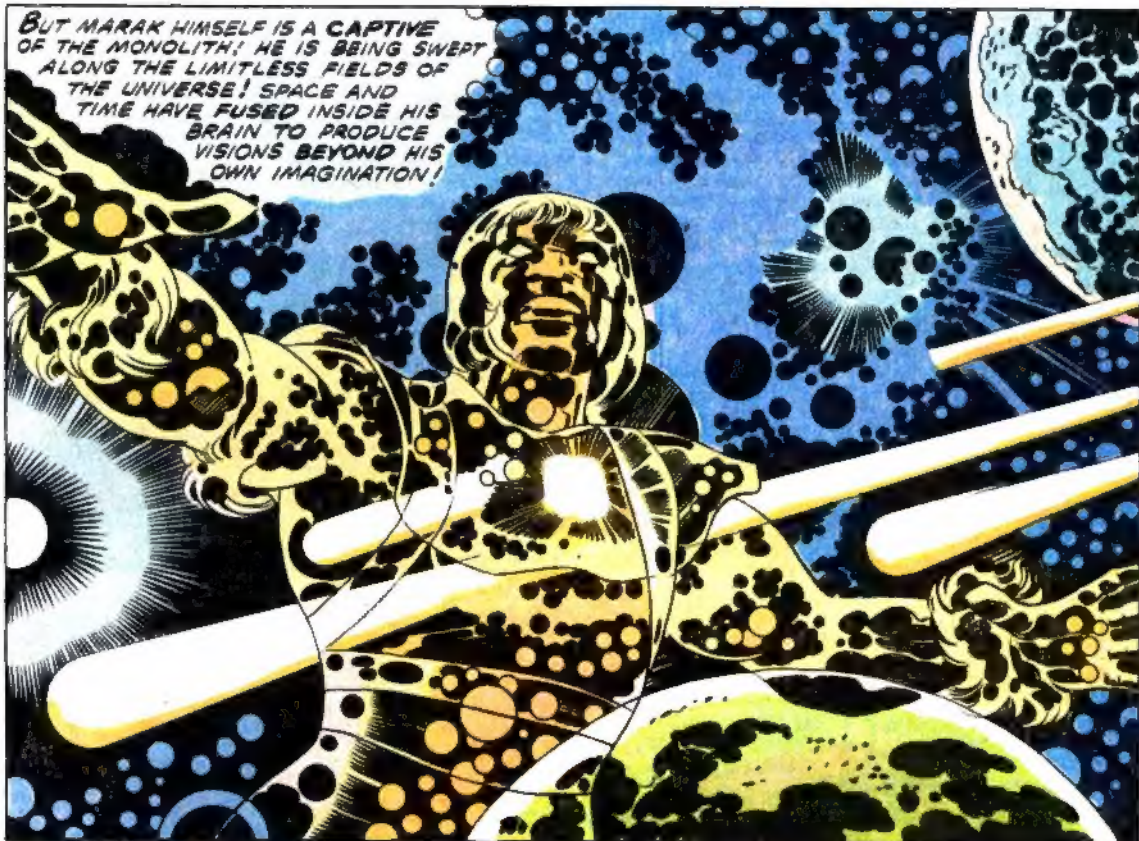


MARAK IS UNHARMED! WHY, EVEN THIS STONE SPIRIT KNOWS HIS COURAGE !!

IF ONE CAN WIN THIS SPIRIT TO OUR SIDE, IT IS MARAK WHO WILL DO IT. THERE IS NOTHING BEYOND HIS POWER!

THAT IS SO !!

BUT MARAK HIMSELF IS A CAPTIVE OF THE MONOLITH! HE IS BEING SWEEPED ALONG THE LIMITLESS FIELDS OF THE UNIVERSE! SPACE AND TIME HAVE FUSED INSIDE HIS BRAIN TO PRODUCE VISIONS BEYOND HIS OWN IMAGINATION!



THERE ARE MOMENTARY GLIMPSES OF WONDERS THAT TEAR LOOSE MARAK'S EMOTIONS. THIS IS DESTINY IN ITS TRUE IMAGE. THINGS TO BE FELT, BUT NEVER SEEN BY MEN OF HIS AGE...



BEFORE THESE VISIONS LEAVE HIM, MARAK EXPERIENCES A BRIGHT INNER FLASH! IT REVEALS THE FACE OF A FEMALE--BOTH BEAUTIFUL AND STRONG--THE FACE OF DESTINY--WITHIN HIS REACH...



THEN, AS ABRUPTLY AS IT HAD ILLUMINATED HIS MIND, THE WOMAN'S FACE VANISHES AND REALITY RETURNS. MARAK CONFRONTS ONLY A LARGE, MIRACULOUS STONE--AND HIS OWN DESTINY!



THE SPIRIT HAS SPOKEN TO YOU! IT HAS SHOWN YOU STRANGE THINGS!

IT HAS SHOWN ME THINGS THAT I CANNOT HAVE--AND THINGS THAT I CAN!

IT HAS SHOWN ME JALESSA!!

JALESSA! 'TIS A NAME WHISPERED IN FEAR AT EVENING FIRES, BY STRANGERS FROM DISTANT LANDS!

IN THIS VISION, SHE HAS CHALLENGED ME! I SHALL HAVE THIS FEMALE! I SHALL TAKE HER AND HER FABLED LAND AS WELL!

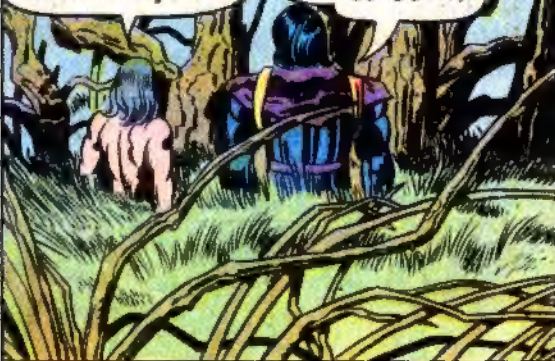
I, TOO, HAVE HEARD OF JALESSA. SHE WIELDS POWER... GREAT POWER!



HAS THE STONE INVOKED A PRIVATE DREAM? OR HAS IT SHOWN THE PATH AHEAD FOR MARAK? AS HE DEPARTS FROM THE MONOLITH, HIS DECISION IS ALREADY MADE...

IF THIS IS YOUR WISH, I SHALL HELP YOU FULFILL IT!

THEN THE STONE SPIRIT HAS TRULY SPOKEN TO US BOTH!



THE CAMPAIGN BEGINS IN THE OLD ONE'S HUT. MARAK HAS HIS FIRST VIEW OF A FORGE AND THE SHAPING OF A METAL OBJECT...



CLANG! CLANG!

WHAT ARE YOU CALLED, OLD ONE?

I AM KNOWN AS EGEL, THE "THING-MAKER!"

I MAKE WHATEVER IS NEEDED BY THOSE WITH A PROBLEM!

MY NEEDS ARE TOO GREAT FOR ONE PAIR OF HANDS. I SHALL SEND MY MEN TO YOU. THEY SHALL LEARN YOUR SKILLS AND BUILD MY DREAM!



IT IS AN ALLIANCE THAT WILL EXPLODE IN THE STONE AGE AND SEND MAN HEAD-LONG INTO THE BRONZE AGE! THE GENERAL AND THE MASTER ARTISAN LITTLE REALIZE THE SCOPE OF THE REVOLUTION THEY ARE TO GENERATE.

THERE IS MUCH TO DO, AND MANY DISTANCES TO TRAVEL! THIS IS WORK FOR THE MIGHTY!



SOON AFTER, MARAK BIDS THE RAM'S HORN TO BE BLOWN. AS IT SUMMONS HIS MEN TO BATTLE, SO DOES IT BRING THEM TO HIS SIDE...



AARROO!!

THE SOUND ECHOES THROUGHOUT THE CONQUERED VILLAGE -- AND THE MEN RUSH TO ANSWER ITS CALL!



MARAK CALLS!

NOW WE SHALL KNOW WHAT THE STONE SPIRIT HAS TOLD HIM!

IF THERE IS ANYTHING TO FEAR, MARAK WILL TELL US!

THE RAIDERS GATHER. MARAK'S EYES SWEEP ACROSS THE GROUP. HE SEES A FORCE OF GOOD FIGHTERS, BUT IT IS PITIFULLY SMALL FOR WHAT HE HAS IN MIND...

ARE WE TO FIGHT AGAIN, MARAK?



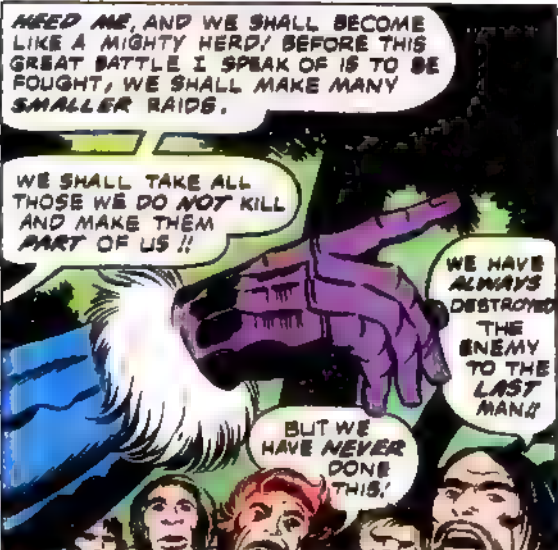
THERE IS A GREAT BATTLE COMING!

IS THIS WHAT THE STONE SPIRIT HAS TOLD YOU?

IS IT, MARAK?

HEED ME, AND WE SHALL BECOME LIKE A MIGHTY HERD! BEFORE THIS GREAT BATTLE I SPEAK OF IS TO BE FOUGHT, WE SHALL MAKE MANY SMALLER RAIDS.

WE SHALL TAKE ALL THOSE WE DO NOT KILL AND MAKE THEM PART OF US!!



WE HAVE ALWAYS DESTROYED THE ENEMY TO THE LAST MAN!

BUT WE HAVE NEVER DONE THIS!

THIS IS OUR WAY! THIS IS HOW WE FIGHT! MARAK HIMSELF HAS TAUGHT US TO DO THIS!

THIS NEW THOUGHT CAN ONLY HAVE COME FROM THE STONE SPIRIT!



"A DEAD ENEMY CANNOT STRIKE BACK!" THESE ARE MARAK'S OWN WORDS!! THEY HAVE NEVER FAILED US!

MARAK GROWS SILENT! THE STEEL RESOLVE IN HIS EYES IS THE ANSWER. THEN, UNDER HIS DIRECTION, A MINE IS DUG, AND CERTAIN ROCKS DESCRIBED BY EGEL ARE PUT ASIDE FOR THE FORGES...

ARE THE STORIES TRUE? CAN EGEL TURN THESE ROCKS INTO A MAGIC SUBSTANCE?

IF MARAK SAYS HE CAN-- THEN HE CAN!



A BAN IS IMPOSED UPON THE KILLING OF HORSES FOR THEIR MEAT. INSTEAD, THE SWIFT CREATURES ARE ROUNDED UP AND KEPT IN PENS FOR FURTHER ORDERS...

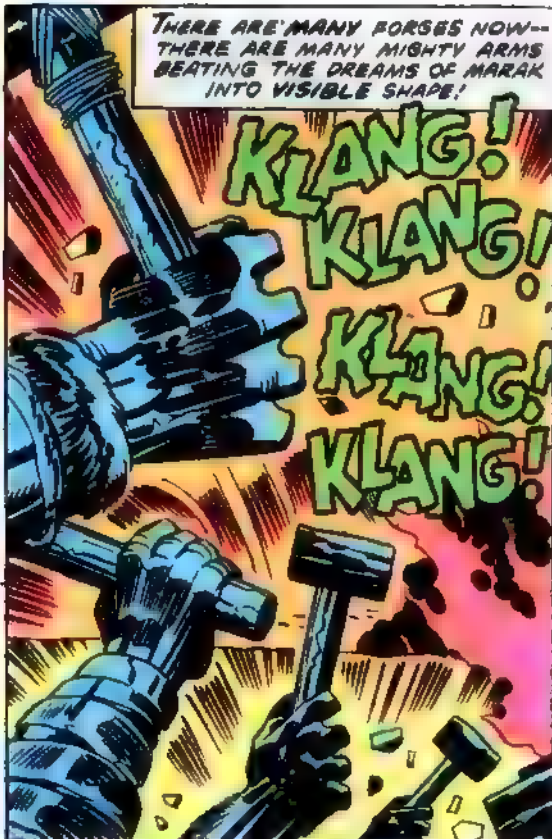
THE SPIRITS HAVE STOLEN MARAK'S SENSES!

WHAT DOES HE WISH TO DO WITH THESE BEASTS?



THERE ARE MANY FORGES NOW-- THERE ARE MANY MIGHTY ARMS BEATING THE DREAMS OF MARAK INTO VISIBLE SHAPE!

KLANG!
KLANG!
KLANG!
KLANG!



THE MEN OF MARAK CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THEIR EARS WHEN THE ORDER COMES. BUT, AS ALWAYS, THEY GRUMBLE AND OBEY AND FROM A LUDICROUS START THEY BECOME THE VANGUARD OF THE CAVALRY CONCEPT.

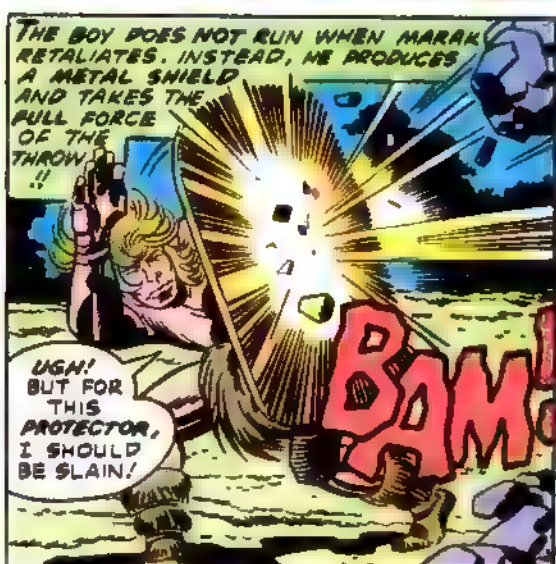
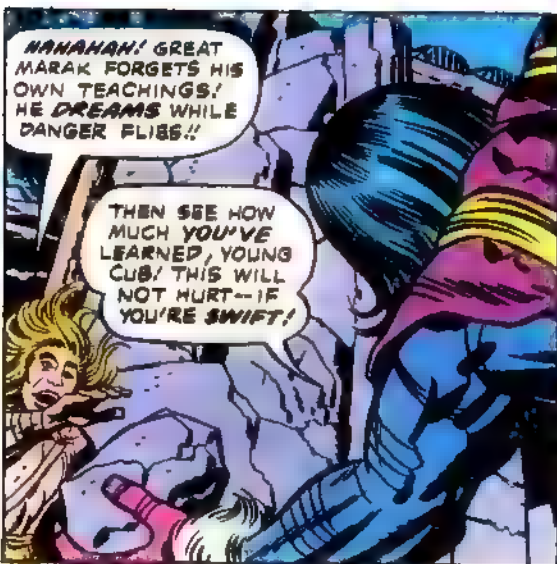
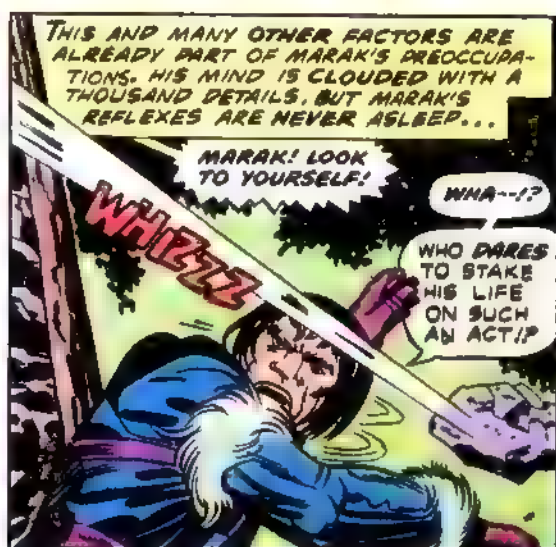
I-IT CAN'T BE DONE! THEY WILL NOT BEAR US UPON THEIR BACKS!

THESE ARE DEFIANT, ILL-TEMPERED ANIMALS! THEY'LL BREAK OUR NECKS BEFORE THIS FOLLY ENDS!!



HOLD STEADY! OR I'LL--!

EAT THEM!! I SAY EAT THEM!





WHEN MARAK EMERGES FROM OLD EGEL'S HUT OF WONDERS, HE IS MORE MAGNIFICENT TO BEHOLD THAN EVER BEFORE. MARAK IS A GOD IN LEATHER AND METAL... WITH A FLOWING HORSETAIL CROWN, WHICH IS SYMBOLIC OF THE FORCE HE INTENDS TO BUILD. BUT IN HIS HAND IS THE ACHIEVEMENT WHICH IS TO DWARF HIS OWN POWERFUL IMAGE AND WIN HIS PEOPLE THE WORLD OF THE DAWN. THERE ARE NO CHEERS FOR THE BRONZE SWORD -- ITS POTENTIAL IS STILL TOO NEW TO DEFINE!!

THERE ARE GREAT THINGS FOR US TO DO!

WE SHALL RIDE THE LIGHTNING ACROSS MANY LANDS--

--AND SWEEP THEM CLEAN--WITH THIS!!



THIS SPURS A STRONG RUSH OF RAPPORT BETWEEN MARAK AND HIS RAIDERS, GRIPPED BY THE NEARBY FEELING OF GREAT DAYS AHEAD, MARAK MAKES AN INSTINCTIVE GESTURE...

TAKE THIS, CUB!

WITH THIS AND THE PROTECTOR, I SHALL BE INVINCIBLE!

WE SHALL ALL BE INVINCIBLE!!

MARAK! MARAK! MARAK!!

DO YOU HEAR THAT, EGEL? THE FIGHTING FEVER IS UPON US! YOU HAVE GIVEN US THE MEANS FOR A GREAT CONQUEST!!

NOW, HELP US MOVE! HELP US MOVE ACROSS A VAST DISTANCE!

WE MUST REACH JALESSA'S LAND WITH FOOD AND SUPPLIES. WE CANNOT DRAG OR CARRY THESE THINGS THAT FAR WITH ANY SPEED AT ALL!

BUT THAT IS ONE TASK AMONG MANY OTHERS!

SEE, MARAK! I HAVE MADE THESE STONE CASKS! THEY WILL KEEP FOOD AND WATER FRESH AND COOL!

AND NOW ARE WE TO CARRY THESE THINGS?



THESE WILL ONLY
BREAK THE BACKS OF
MEN AND BEASTS!
WE SHALL DIE IN THE
DESERTS AND PERISH
AMONG THE VERMIN
OF THE SCRUB LANDS!



YOUR WONDROUS WITS HAVE BROUGHT US
TOO CLOSE TO THE KILL TO DENY
US THE BATTLE!!

I MUST REACH
JALESSA'S LAND,
EGEL! I MUST
WIN HER AND ALL
THAT SHE RULES!

MARAK--!
I-I...



MARAK IS FILLED WITH THE FURY OF
FRUSTRATION. HIS FINGERS FASTEN
MERCILESSLY UPON EGEL, BUT THE
SPINDLY OLD MAN HAS CEASED STRUGGLING.
HIS ATTENTION HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY
A SIGHT OF INCREDIBLE PORTENT...

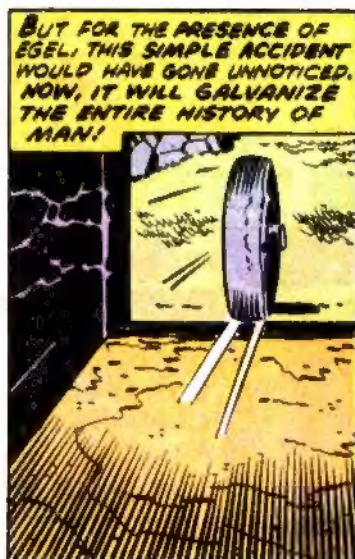
LISTEN TO
ME, YOU
OLD FOOL!



IT IS THE COVER OF THE STONE CASK!
STRUCK FROM EGEL'S HAND, IT ROLLS
ACROSS THE FLOOR TOWARD THE OPEN
DOORWAY OF HIS HUT!



THE COVER ROLLS ON--
SMOOTHLY, SWIFTLY, EFFORT-
LESSLY--SPANNING DISTANCE
AND IGNITING FIRES IN OLD
EGEL'S BRAIN!



BUT FOR THE PRESENCE OF
EGEL, THIS SIMPLE ACCIDENT
WOULD HAVE GONE UNNOTICED.
NOW, IT WILL GALVANIZE
THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF
MAN!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT WILL
BLAST YOU OUT OF YOUR
SEAT!!

THE PAST MERGES WITH
THE FUTURE IN--
**WHEELS
OF
DEATH!**
DON'T MISS IT!!